

REMARKS

Claims 19-20 were rejected as unpatentable over NAKANO 5,268,958, in view of LATTER et al. 6,332,021 and LEE 5,537,470. Claim 19 has been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

As supported by the disclosure at page 20, lines 8-15, claim 19 has been amended to indicate that the call connection information recognition section performs automatic recognition processing when the call preferential connection information inquiry section asks the call preferential connection information database about a caller specification number recognized by the caller specification number recognition section and finds out as a result, that the caller specification number is not registered. The automatic recognition processing performed by the call connection information recognition section, when this condition is met, includes processing of a set of the caller specification number and a called party individual call number of a called party who responds to the call as a new call preferential connection information for determining the set of the caller specification number and the called party individual call number as an exclusive called party the next time the same caller makes a call.

Applicant has carefully considered the various references and applicant does not believe that the references,

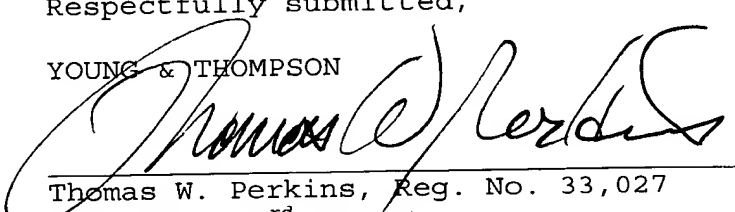
alone or in combination, suggest the above-noted feature of amended claim 19. For example, NAKANO discloses that when a caller is not registered, the user of the extension telephone set to be assigned as a receiver depresses a directory number and performs certain procedures (column 5, line 27 through column 6, line 49). In other words, there is no suggestion to perform automatic recognition processing to pair up the caller specification number and the called party who responds to the call. The automatic recognition processing as set forth in amended claim 19 is believed to be novel and not obvious in view of the applied references.

Accordingly, it is believed that amended claim 19 is in condition for allowance and reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

TWP/mjr
July 19, 2004